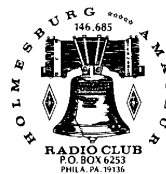


August, 1999

The HARC Spark

The Official Newsletter of the
Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club



Editors: KB3AKK
WA3PZO

The Prez says

Seems hard to believe that the summer is half over with. Back to school signs are already appearing in the store windows. Are you just beginning to think about some antenna work you want to do or the rig you want to install in the car? Fear not! You have a few more months to wait. It hasn't begun to snow yet!

If you haven't been around for the past few months, you have missed several HARC activities. The June meeting featured an auction. Then there was Field Day and in July we showed how paper has played a major role in amateur radio. No this wasn't the scrap paper that you use to copy a callsign and QSL information. The show and tell items included paper tape used in RTTY, RTTY artwork, cw practice tapes, and the equipment used to send and make the tapes.

Field Day turned out to be loads of fun with our station set up at Avelthorpe Park in Jenkintown. The station was staffed for the entire

Field Day period. Contacts were down some from last year. We had some antenna problems and the W3P callsign proved to be a problem in a contest operation. Overall we had fun and we learned.

Probably one of the biggest hits was our chief gatekeeper. Alan,



N3XSO, used his red scooter to man the gate. This saved us all several long walks. In case you missed it, KYW radio gave ham radio a lot of coverage on Saturday. ARRL Director WT3P, Mid-Atlantic ARC FD Chairman N3AO, and HARC's WA3PZO shared the spotlight at least twice an hour.

SB QST ARL ARLB048

ARLB048 FCC starts amateur ULS phase-in
August 8

The FCC begins phasing in the Universal Licensing System for the Amateur Service August 8 at 4 PM Eastern Time. That's when the FCC will stop accepting batch files that contain new or upgraded licensee data from Volunteer Examiner Coordinators under the current amateur licensing system.

Being phased out under ULS is the familiar paper FCC Form 610 series. A "universal" Form 605--primarily designed for electronic use but also available on paper--will take its place.

An FCC Public Notice July 23 says the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will begin use of the ULS for the Amateur Service on August 16. The existing Amateur Radio licensing data will be transferred into the ULS database during a weeklong phase-in period. During the phase-in period, the FCC will not process new or upgraded licenses.

Electronic filing of Amateur Radio license renewals using FCC Form 900 ends August 9 at 9 AM Eastern Time. Electronic filing of vanity call sign application Form 610V terminates August 13 at 5:30 PM Eastern Time. Hams should not attempt to file renewal or vanity applications until the ULS comes up August 16.

Starting August 16, hams registered in the ULS may file the new FCC Form 605 electronically at any time of day, seven days a week. FCC Form 605 will be used for license renewals, modifications, cancellations, vanity call sign application, application withdrawals and amendments, as well as requests for duplicate licenses and administrative updates (ie, a change of address or other clerical license modification). Applications for new or upgraded licenses

will continue to be filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Automated processing of electronically filed applications will occur nightly each business day, but five days a week instead of seven. There will be no weekend processing under the ULS.

The FCC has warned that applicants should anticipate processing delays during the first couple of weeks the ULS is in effect.

The FCC will stop accepting most Form 610 applications next February 16, but club station Form 610B will continue to be valid beyond the six-month transition window to allow time for the FCC to implement new handling procedures.

One feature of the new ULS is a renewal reminder sent 90 days prior to a license's expiration date. ULS also will simplify the process of submitting fees to the FCC, and the FCC said it anticipates that the ULS will be capable of accepting credit card payments online in the near future.

Registration in the ULS is required. Applicants should use FCC Form 606 for both electronic or manual filing. To register online, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration." A paper FCC Form 606 is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or from the FCC's Forms Distribution Center, 800-418-3676.

The FCC will not process future license grants, upgrades, modifications or renewals for any applicant not registered in the ULS. Individuals eligible to hold a Social Security Number must provide this number to the FCC in order to be registered in the ULS.

A copy of the July 23, 1999 Public Notice is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>.
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SB SPACE @ ARL \$ARLS005
ARLS005 Last shuttle SAREX mission is in space!

ZCZC AS05
QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 005 ARLS005
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT July 23, 1999

To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS005
ARLS005 Last shuttle SAREX mission is in space!

The third time was the charm for shuttle Columbia mission STS-93--the last shuttle that will carry the Space Amateur Radio Experiment. Future Amateur Radio in space activities will involve the International Space Station.

After a faulty sensor Tuesday and thunderstorms Thursday prevented Columbia from blasting off with Eileen Collins, KD5EDS, at the helm, the shuttle took off early Friday, July 23, but not without a glitch. Collins reported a fuel cell problem nine seconds after liftoff. Some seven hours after launch, the STS-93 crew deployed the world's most powerful X-ray telescope, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory.

Collins is the first woman to lead a US space flight. In addition to Collins, the STS-93 crew includes Pilot Jeffrey Ashby; and Mission Specialists Cady Coleman, KC5ZTH; Steven Hawley; and Michel Tognini, KD5EJZ, a French astronaut.

STS-93 carries the 25th SAREX payload, and students at five US schools in Virginia, Texas, and Florida, have scheduled Amateur Radio QSO's with the astronauts. Earthbound stations may be able to listen to the astronaut side of the QSO on 145.80 MHz FM, but they will not be able to transmit to them. If all goes as planned, students at each school will get a chance to directly interview the astronauts via the SAREX linkups. Typical passes last approximately 10 minutes.

The crew may have time for some random Amateur Radio contacts as well. This crew prefers voice mode over packet, but the packet robot will be on when the crew is occupied elsewhere. For all voice contacts, stations should listen on the downlink for the crew to call "CQ."

The downlink frequency to listen for the STS-93 crew is 145.80 MHz FM. There are two uplink frequencies--144.47 and 144.45 MHz FM (over Europe, the single uplink frequency is 144.49 MHz). The crew will not favor either uplink frequency.

The packet robot downlink frequency is 145.80 MHz FM, and the uplink is 144.49 MHz FM worldwide. The connect on packet should be to

W5RRR-1; stations will get a connect number if they are successful. Stations are asked to make only one packet connect to let other stations have a chance. The robot should never be used to connect to another station. APRS UI frames are welcome. If you send an APRS packet, once you see it digipeated, cancel your request to avoid unnecessary QRM and keep your comments very brief.

The QSL route for random STS-93 SAREX contacts is care of Dan Miller, K3UFG, ATTN: STS-93, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has volunteered to handle QSL duties for this mission.

For updated information on STS-93, visit <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~kc6rol/sts93.html>.
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ARRL BOARD ADOPTS NEW LEAGUE IDENTITY

The ARRL Board of Directors unanimously has approved the use of a new identity for the League. Meeting July 16-17 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, the Board accepted the recommendation of the ARRL Executive Committee to emphasize the initials "ARRL" in conjunction with the tag line "The national association for Amateur Radio." The new identity--which is not a legal name change--will appear on League correspondence and publications. The traditional--and legal--name will be retained but de-emphasized; a new ARRL letterhead design includes "American Radio Relay League" at the bottom.

Further discussion of any possible new name for the League has been deferred until the Board meets again in January.

The ARRL Board also approved a proposal to hold a Hiram Percy Maxim 130-year anniversary on-the-air event in September. The event will mark the 130th anniversary of Maxim's birth, September 2, 1869. It will take place September 2-11.

In other matters, the Board unanimously authorized a mail vote of full members in the proposed new West Central Florida Section, which includes nine counties that now are part of the Southern Florida Section. A group calling

itself the West Central Florida Section Committee filed a petition with the League earlier this year to create a third section in the Sunshine State.

Ballots will go out within a few weeks to ARRL members in Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota counties. Results of the balloting will be reported to the Board on a county-by-county basis. The proposed section is home to more than 2500 League members. If a simple majority of eligible members voting approves the change, the Board will review the entire petition file and vote to approve or disapprove the requested change. That decision is final.

The ARRL Board also discussed the recent Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Central States VHF Society and plans to file timely comments on the proposal. The petition would amend FCC rules to formally segregate wideband and narrowband modes on VHF and UHF bands to eliminate interference from FM and packet in the so-called weak-signal portions of 6 and 2 meters and 70 cm. The FCC has assigned RM-9673 to the SCVHFS petition. Comments are due by July 28.

The League's comments will support the intent of the petition, but the Board unanimously agreed that the petition, as submitted, "does not sufficiently establish a basis for the regulatory relief requested." As an alternative to the SCVHFS petition, the League will suggest doing a better job of educating the amateur community about ARRL band plans. The League also plans to again try to get the FCC to acknowledge that VHF and UHF operation in accordance with ARRL band plans is "good amateur practice" and will seek supporting compliance efforts by the FCC.

In other action, the Board

- * directed Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, to study the development and implementation of electronic QSL submittals for ARRL-sponsored awards.

- * directed Sumner to develop and implement strategies to induce developers "and others who have influence in these matters" to relax restrictive covenants pertaining to Amateur Radio and antennas "so that Amateur Radio activities might be broadly accommodated."

* heard "A Vision for Amateur Radio: Progress Report" from Sumner that addresses where Amateur Radio will be in 2010 and the challenges the League and the hobby will face.

* officially recognized "the historic and benevolent contributions of the National Traffic System and its operators to the ARRL and the public service program," on the occasion of NTS's 50th anniversary.

* directed the Headquarters staff to review the effects of contest rules pertaining to rovers and to make recommendations for promoting the participation by rovers.

* presented a National Certificate of Merit to Nate Brightman, K6OSC, "for his dedicated efforts" that have resulted in continuous operation of the W6RO station aboard the Queen Mary by an Amateur Radio staff of more than 100 volunteers.

Additional details and complete minutes of the July Board meeting are posted on ARRLWeb (<http://www.arrl.org/>) and will appear in the September issue of QST.

CQ EDITOR ALAN M. DORHOFFER, K2EEK, SK

CQ Editor Alan M. Dorhoffer, K2EEK, died July 19 from complications of cancer surgery. He was 61. Dorhoffer, who'd served as editor of CQ for nearly a quarter-century, had spent his entire professional life at the magazine. He started as an assistant editor in 1964 and became the magazine's tenth editor in 1976. He'd been a co-owner of the magazine since 1979.

A ham since his teenage years, Dorhoffer, who lived in Port Washington, New York, concentrated his activity on his favorite band, 10 meters. At CQ, he tried to focus on the "people" aspects of Amateur Radio. "Ham radio is people interacting with other people," he wrote in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue, and on the things people do with Amateur Radio. "The act of doing, whether it's contests or awards, that's been my outlook."

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said Dorhoffer had been like a brother to him for more than 42 years. "We'd butt heads from time to time on editorial matters, but that in no way diminished our mutual love and respect," Ross said. "He was always there for everybody."

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, was among those saddened to learn of Dorhoffer's passing. "He was a respected colleague and well known to all of us who travel the convention and hamfest circuit, he said. "It's difficult to picture the circuit without him."

Dorhoffer's illness was diagnosed only a week or so before he succumbed to it. He was not married at the time of his death and had no children; but he is survived by an "extended family" of more than a million close friends--the world's Amateur Radio community.

Services and committal were July 22. Sumner, ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, and ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, were among those attending.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St Francis Hospital Foundation. Mark donations "in memory of Alan Dorhoffer" and mail to St Francis Hospital, ATTN: Development Office, 100 Port Washington Blvd, Roslyn, NY 11576.--thanks to CQ Communications

SB DX @ ARL \$ARLD031
ARLD031 DX news

ZCZC AE31
QST de W1AW
DX Bulletin 31 ARLD031
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 29, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD031
ARLD031 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, 425DXnews and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

FIJI ISLANDS, 3D2. Steve, 3D2SJ, has been QRV on 21290 khz between 0915 and 1015z.

VIETNAM, 3W. Kunio, JA8VE, and Hiro, JF1OCQ, will be QRV as 3W6KS and 3W6HM, respectively, from Phu Quoc, IOTA AS-128, from August 1 to 4. Look for their CW and SSB on 20 to 6 meters, including 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home calls.

CROATIA, 9A. Alberto, IK4HPU, will be QRV as 9A/IK4HPU from IOTA EU-136 from August 4 to 14. QSL to home call.

CHINA, BY. BD4ED/4 is active from Chong Ming Island, IOTA AS-136. QSL via BY4BHP.

IRAN, EP. Hamid, EP3HR, has been QRV on 21210 khz just after 1500z. QSL via I2MQP.

ESTONIA, ES. Timo, OH1NOA, will be active on 20 meters SSB and CW as ES0/OH1NOA from Saaremaa Island, IOTA EU-034, between August 2 to 5. QSL to home call.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. FK8VHM was QRV on 20 meters CW around 1200z.
SOUTH KOREA, HL. Operators from the HanYang University Wave Research Club will be active as HL0C/4 from Mara Island, IOTA AS-026, from August 3 to 9.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. KH0HX has been QRV on 10108 khz around 1100 and 1130z. He has also been found on 21027 khz around 1500z. QSL via JH7WKQ. NH0P has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1100 and 1600z. QSL via JA7SYA.

ICELAND, TF. Norbert, LX1NO, will be QRV from several areas in Iceland as TF0/1/4/5/6/ LX9EG. Look for him on the IOTA frequencies and the newer bands. QSL to LX1NO.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS ISLANDS, V4. McKoy, V44KMC, was QRV on 18140 khz just prior to 2000z.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Bruce, V73CW, has been QRV on 15 meters around 0745z. QSL via AC4G.

CHAGOS ISLAND, VQ9. Dan, VQ9DJ, has been QRV on 20 meters around 1230z and later on at 1915z. QSL via AB7JN.

VANUATU, YJ. YJ0AFL was active on 14195 khz between 1100 and 1200z. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via VK4FL.

CAYMEN ISLANDS, ZF. Jim, KD3YK, will be QRV as ZF2JM from August 2 to 12 operating QRP on 40 and 20 meter CW. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Georgia State QSO Party and the USI W/VE Islands Contest, The QRP ARCI Summer Daze SSB Sprint and YO-DX Contest are scheduled for this weekend. Please see July QST, page 88, and August QST, page 91, respectively, for details.

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SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB048
ARLB048 FCC starts amateur ULS phase-in
August 8

ZCZC AG48
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 48 ARLB048
>From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT July 29, 1999
To all radio amateurs

Meetings

Club meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at the Naval Aviation Supply Office, 700 Robbins Ave, Philadelphia. Time is 8PM. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday at 8pm.

Nets

The Chaverim Net Tuesday @ 9:00 PM
CW Practice Wednesday @ 7:30 PM, Followed
By The Club Net @ 8:00 PM Check Ins can hear
The Amateur Newslite, the ARRL News
And Sunday @ 9:00 AM on 28.450 Mhz SSB
(+/- QRM).

Code Practice

Code Practice is held on the repeater, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM on 146.685. For further info contact Jay, WA3IFY.

Newsletter

Items for the newsletter can be sent to KB3AKK or WA3PZO.

For Sale

6 Meter beam. All paperwork comes with it.
\$25.00 Contact Joe K3RFL (215) 698-8051

Hustler G6 270R dual band vertical antenna
6dB gain on VHF & UHF Weight 5.3 lbs.
Height 7'6" Brand new in box. Asking \$125.00

Contact Greg N3FSC at 215-742-7240 E-Mail
N3FSC@aol.com

Chrome Iambic key(paddle), straight key, and
MFJ deluxe memory keyer. \$70.00 Contact Bill
N3OOM (215)342-3268